

Remarks

The forgoing amendment and following remarks are in response to the Office Action mailed on October 18, 2006 in which claims 1-22 were rejected. Claim 1 is amended in the present application, with claims 1-22 currently pending. In light of the following remarks, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections and advancement of this application to allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Isen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,763,058). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 sets forth, “forming a second insulating layer on the first insulating layer and the ... battery...; and positioning a circuit component on the second insulating layer opposing the ...battery.” The claim also requires that the circuit board includes a circuit component positioned on the second insulating layer over the battery. Figure 1 in the pending application illustrates one of the possible embodiments. In this example, a battery 165 is placed within a flexible circuit board 105, with additional circuit components 150, 155 opposing the battery:

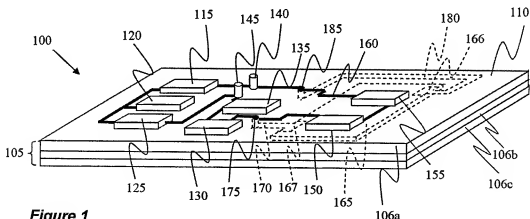


Figure 1

The application discloses that an advantage of placing a battery within a flexible circuit board is “to allow more surface area for the population of [circuit] components.” Application, p. 7 (last

paragraph). The circuit components opposing the battery would need to be relocated if the battery were not located within the circuit board.

Isen et al. fails to disclose or suggest a method of forming a battery enabled flexible circuit including a battery between first and second insulating layers to form a flexible circuit board having a circuit component positioned on the second insulating layer opposing the battery. Isen et al. is generally directed to an electrical circuit component printed directly onto one side of a substrate. (See, e.g., Isen et al., abstract) As shown in FIG. 8, Isen et al. illustrates printing a battery (seen as E1) onto a substrate 53:

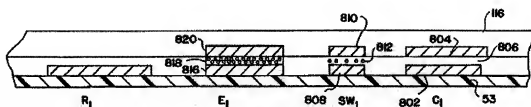


FIG. 8

Isen et al. shows that the battery E1 is covered by a bath 116 to cover the surface of the finished electrical circuit. Isen et al., col. 9:48-52. Isen et al. does not contemplate enclosing a battery in a structure that forms a printed circuit board, because the overall structure of Figure 8 represents a completed circuit rather than a circuit board useable to mount components thereon.

Further, Isen et al. does not disclose or suggest positioning a circuit component on the second insulating layer opposing a battery. Isen et al. discloses covering the battery E1 with a protective coating 116, rather than electrically connecting it to circuits mounted on an outside surface. In fact, Isen et al. teaches away from placement of other circuit components over a battery, in that it discloses use of an encapsulated liquid electrolyte with a press-activation battery. Isen et al., col. 11:64 - 12:5. Use of such a battery would require exposed surface over the battery to allow a user to depress the battery for activation.

For at least the reasons discussed above, the cited reference Isen et al. fails to disclose or suggest all limitations of claim 1 of the present application. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejection.

Claims 2-22 depend from claim 1, and inherit all of the limitations of that claim. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims as well, for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

In view of this Amendment and Response, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims and advancement of this application to allowance. There may be additional reasons that the subject matter is patentably distinct from the cited references, in addition to those discussed herein. Applicant reserves the right to raise any such arguments in the future.

If the examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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/John C. Reich/

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